

23 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Danny Boggs
Assistant Director Office of Policy Development

FROM:

[redacted]
Chief, Geography Division, OGI

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SUBJECT: World Fish Catch

REFERENCE: Your request of 11 May 1983

1. Data compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN reveals that the world fish catch, both oceanic and inland water, has trended upward over the past 35 years. This trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future as new fishing grounds are tapped and new fish species are brought into production.

2. The near universal establishment of national 200-mile coastal economic and fishing zones since the mid 1970s has brought more rational management to many of the world's rich fishing grounds. Fishing industry publications report that many of the popular species such as Atlantic cod, haddock, and flounder, that were depleted by uncontrolled fishing from the late 1950s to the early 1970s have returned to commercial levels. They will probably not again be harvested at pre 200-mile levels, but new species are filling the gap. These include capelin and blue whiting from the North Atlantic, various mackerel species from off Peru, Chile, and southern Africa; Japanese pilchard from the northwest Pacific; and krill from Antarctica.

3. A table showing the world fish catch for the period 1975-1981 is attached. It highlights the catches of countries that have been among the top 10 during that period.



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Attachment:

World Fish Catch. [redacted] GI M 83-10138, 23 May 1983

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OGI/GD/ERA/ (23May83)

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Distribution:

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ATTACHMENT TO GI M 83-10138

World Fish Catch (million tons)
Source: FAO Statistical Yearbook

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Japan	9.9	10.0	10.1	10.2	9.9	10.4	11.3
USSR	10.0	10.1	9.3	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.5
China	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.6
Chile	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.9	2.6	2.8	3.4
US	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.3
Peru	3.4	4.3	2.5	3.5	3.7	2.3	2.7
India	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.6
Norway	2.5	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.5
South Korea	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.3
Denmark	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.8
Thailand	1.6	1.7	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.7 estimate
Spain	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2
Other*	<u>23.6</u>	<u>23.8</u>	<u>25.0</u>	<u>25.9</u>	<u>26.6</u>	<u>27.7</u>	<u>26.8</u> estimate
Total	66.4	69.8	68.9	70.4	71.3	72.2	73.7

*These totals include annual catches for 7 countries that caught more than 1 million tons in 1980. In order of catch size, they are: Indonesia, Philippines, Iceland, North Korea, Canada, Mexico, and Vietnam; their 1980 combined total was 9.9 million tons. Indonesia, Philippines, North Korea and Vietnam were in the over-1-million group from 1975 to 1980. Data for 1981 are incomplete.

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